

West Shore

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The West Shore offers the Best Medium for Advertisers of any publication on the Pacific Coast.

Saturday, May 3, 1890.

PROBABLY the majority of the people of the Pacific coast fail to realize the full significance of the establishment of a steamer line between Portland and Japan and China. It means that the time when San Francisco was the commercial autocrat of the Pacific coast has passed away. Not only has Portland come to the front as a competitor in all lines of domestic trade, but she now enters more fully into the Asiatic field. Tacoma, also, is seeking to be included in this competition with the former commercial queen, and the prospects that the City of Destiny will also be made a terminal port for a steamer line are very bright. The development of the northwest is simply marvelous. The railroad pushes its way into uninhabited wilds, and the shriek of the locomotive seems endowed with the potency of the conjurer's magic wand, calling into instant life wealth, industry, population and all that these can produce. From this great scene of transformation San Francisco is too far. The tide of development has rolled to the north and beats upon other shores than hers. Another commercial center has arisen to take from her the half of her kingdom. Portland to-day has better commercial facilities than the Bay city. She has three great transcontinental roads competing for her trade and entering the city over independent tracks, while but one company controls the roads centering at the Golden Gate. There are, also, more great lines headed in this direction, while the amount of local and branch lines in the Columbia region soon to be built are as ten to one compared with those in the local territory of San Francisco. The population, wealth, trade, products and industries of Oregon, Washington and Idaho are going to increase for a number of years at the same rapid rate they are now advancing, and the commercial benefit will be reaped in a continually greater de-

gree by the cities of the Columbia and Puget sound. To be sure neither Portland nor Tacoma nor Seattle nor Spokane Falls, not even all combined, has yet the population of the older city; but they will soon have as much business, and the population will follow in due time. In this age railroads make cities, and Portland stands pre-eminent as the railroad center of the Pacific coast.

Senator Call, of Florida, was piqued a few days ago because so few of his brother senators remained in the chamber to hear him deliver a speech on the forfeiture of railroad lands in his state. He gave vent to his chagrin by remarking that if the people could only look in and witness the scene in the senate chamber they would form the opinion that the day was passing by when the senate was of any use in the government of the country. Mr. Call trenched closely upon the truth, so far as general public opinion is concerned. The people are coming to think that the senate, constituted as it is, has passed its days of usefulness. Almost universal is the belief that senators should be elected by the people direct. The people want to get closer to the government, not farther from it, and to this end are desirous of relieving the legislature of its corrupt job of electing senators, and dispensing with the electoral college farce as well.

The two great parties in Oregon have held their conventions, nominated their candidates for the various offices and promulgated their platforms—whatever that may be—in the language considered by each the best calculated to catch the greatest number of votes, and now campaign oratory, like Fourth of July pyrotechnics, is rendering lurid the political sky. The hope of the future welfare of this country lies in the men who neither sell their votes on the one hand nor vote blindly the party ticket on the other, and happily, so far as the latter is concerned, they are growing in numbers yearly. Platforms mean little and campaign froth means less, while principles and men mean much.

Would it not be well for "Colonel" Robert A. Miller to run for congress as plain Mr. Miller, or else try for just once to see how a blue coat matches his complexion? Colonels who wear nothing but the title, but who wear that days, nights and Sundays, are not needed in congress.

California is making wonderful success of her orange industry. This season 800 car loads were shipped and the new acreage being planted is larger than ever before. The demand for young trees can not be supplied.